



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS MAN CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING MORE THAN 3,000 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Texas man was charged in federal court with transporting marijuana from Texas to Chicago, through Webster County, Mo.

Cesar Raul Jara, 34, who lives in Mexico but is a citizen of the United States, was charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Feb. 11, 2004, in Springfield.

The criminal complaint alleges that **Jara** knowingly possessed with intent to distribute in excess of 1,000 kilograms of marijuana on Feb. 10, 2004, in Webster County.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Jara** was originally arrested on Feb. 10, 2004. At that time, law enforcement officers conducted a routine traffic stop on a tractor pulling a Wabash trailer for a commercial motor vehicle check. During the inspection, **Jara** told officers that he was driving from Texas to Chicago to pick up a load of candy, the affidavit states. Upon noticing several violations during the commercial motor vehicle check, law enforcement officers asked **Jara** if they could search the tractor trailer unit. **Jara** consented to the search.

During the search, a drug detection canine discovered marijuana located in a concealed compartment in the trailer. The search revealed 394 wrapped bundles of marijuana with a gross weight of approximately 3,074 pounds, the affidavit states.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn McKee. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow